

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD OF HOSTING DIGITAL BUSINESSES

5 A method, system, and computer program product for providing electronic
business functions for a business client is provided. In one embodiment, a host provides,
on a data processing system, first level and second level services for several business
clients. The first level services may include such features as storage, network
connectivity, web hosting, and processing power. The second level services may include
software designed to meet the specific needs of the business clients and may include such
functionality as accounting services, inventory management services, price determination
10 services, product and service ordering services, and negotiating services. The host may
facilitate transactions between one business client and another business client on behalf of
the clients by identifying needs of one business client and identifying the capability of
another business client to fulfill those needs. The host automatically completes the
electronic portions of the transaction including ordering the item, updating inventory
15 records, completing payment for the item (including updating accounting records), and
arranging for and monitoring shipping, if necessary.